

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-06 TRSE-00 HEW-06 AGR-10

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TREASURY/RWILLIAMS/ENERGY POLICY

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P 162105Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 227700

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON INDUSTRIALIZATION:
STANDARDS ADVISOR

REF:(A) STATE 220721; (B) JIDDA 5925

1. PARA 2 REF (A) WAS EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO DESIRES
OF SAUDI WORKING GROUP AS EXPRESSED IN SEPTEMBER 26-28
MEETINGS, PARTICULARLY BY ABDUL AZZIZ AL-ZAMIL OF ISDC.
WE FRANKLY CONFUSED BY SAUDI RESPONSE PARA 2 REF (B),
WHICH APPEARS ASK U.S. G. DETERMINE SAUDI NEEDS THIS FIELD.
NBS CAPABILITIES TOO VARIED FOR US DETERMINE WHAT
AREAS EXPERT CAN AND SHOULD COVER OR NUMBER OF
EXPERTS NEEDED WITHOUT BETTER GUIDELINES FROM SAG.
MOREOVER, SEEMS UNREASONABLE ASK WASHINGTON MAKE SUCH
DETERMINATION WHEN SAUDIS THEMSELVES UNABLE DEFINE NATURE
AND SCOPE OF SERVICES SOUGHT.

IN VIEW ABOVE, PLUS IMMINENCE PROPOSED DEPARTURE DATE,
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SUGGEST WE PROCEED WITH PLAN SEND ADVISOR WITH BROAD

KNOWLEDGE IN STANDARDS FIELD TO DETERMINE IN DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDIS WHAT THEIR NEEDS AND DESIRES ARE AND DEVELOP A SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACCORDINGLY. SUCH ADVISOR SELECTED AND PREPARED FOR APPROXIMATE OCTOBER 31 DEPARTURE IF SAG CONCURS.

2. RE FOOD AND DRUG STANDARDS, WAS AGREED IN SEPTEMBER MEETINGS THAT THESE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS SEPARATE ISSUE, SINCE THIS OUTSIDE SCOPE OF NBS ACTIVITIES. IN VIEW OUR EXPERIENCES TO DATE, FEEL IT NECESSARY HAVE SPECIFIC REQUEST FROM SAG, INCLUDING CLEAR DEFINITION OF ASSISTANCE SOUGHT, BEFORE APPROACHING FDA.

3. IN MORE GENERAL VEIN, WE BECOMING CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL CRISIS OF SAUDI EXPECTATION FROM USG ADVISORS UNDER EXISTING GROUND RULES AND RESULTANT EFFECTS ON U.S. IMAGE. IT CLEAR FROM W/G SESSIONS THAT SAUDIS CONCERN WITH IMPLEMENTATION LEADS THEM EXPECT MISSIONS THESE USG ADVISORS CONSTITUTE FIRST STEP THIS DIRECTION. SEEMS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT SUCH EXPECTATIONS UNREASONABLE IF EXPERTS SELECTED AND SENT WITHOUT CLEAR PRIOR DEFINITION OF MISSION BY SAUDIS AND OPPORTUNITY PREPARE ACCORDINGLY. TO DO PROPER JOB, EXPERTS ALSO NEED KNOW ENVIRONMENT INTO WHICH GOING, I.E., NATURE AND EXTENT OF ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN FIELD (E.G., COMMUNICATIONS) AND RELATIONSHIP EXPERT'S MISSIONS TO SUCH ACTIVITIES. FEEL IT IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, IN INTERESTS BOTH SAG AND USG, TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN TO SAUDIS DESIRABILITY THAT REQUESTS FOR ADVISORS REFLECT CONSENSUS OF CONCERNED SAUDI ENTITIES ON NATURE PROPOSED MISSIONS AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY CLEAR STATEMENT OF SAUDI EXPECTATIONS.
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